



AETC News Clips

Air Force Times



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DoD Launches Deployment Health, Family Readiness Library

American Forces Press Service

10 Aug 05

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Aug. 10, 2005 – Servicemembers, their families and their health care providers have a new online Defense Department resource for deployment health issues.

The DoD Deployment Health Risk Communication Working Group and the Joint Task Force for Family Readiness Education on Deployments have joined together to create the Deployment Health and Family Readiness Library.

Ellen P. Embrey, deputy assistant secretary of defense for force health protection and readiness, announced the new online library Aug. 9. It is intended to provide servicemembers, families and healthcare providers a quick and easy way to find the deployment health and family readiness information they value, she said.

"Information is a powerful tool. We must remain proactive in providing deployment-related health information to better safeguard our servicemembers," she said. "Most people fear the unknown. Through accurate, timely information, we are able to ensure that our servicemembers are better equipped to prepare for, cope with, and recover from the myriad health risks faced during deployments."

The online library includes fact sheets, guides and other products on a wide variety of topics. The topic listing was based on feedback from servicemembers, their families, and health care providers, Embrey said. New information will be added to the site as new topics and areas of concern emerge, she added.

In focus-group meetings, Embrey explained, servicemembers and their families have said their need for information varies before, during and after deployments. Leaders, in particular, look for accurate information before the deployment. While the servicemembers are deployed, their families are especially interested in getting deployment health-related information, she noted, and following deployments, both servicemembers and families look for this information.

Embrey said many information sources are available on line, but noted that too often it's difficult to tell if the information source is accurate.

"We are absolutely committed to providing the best information found in sound science and based on medical evidence," Embrey said. "We want this site to be the authoritative source for deployment health and family readiness information. This is another step we are taking to ensure that those who protect our country and our freedoms are also protected."

Air Force Times

ISSUE DATE: 11 Aug 05

PAGE: 14



AETC News Clips

Altus AFB, Okla.



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Could there be a shuttle landing in Altus' future?

Possibility hinges on weather in Abilene, Texas

By Sonya Ray, staff writer

ALTUS — The Space Shuttle Discovery came back to earth this week and if the weather cooperates — or does not cooperate, depending on your point of view — Discovery could make an appearance in Altus.

Now it's up to the Air Force and NASA to make sure the shuttle makes it back to its home in one piece.

The shuttle landed in California and has to be prepared for a piggyback ride back to the Kennedy Space Center in Cape

Canaveral, Fla.

Preparing the shuttle for the trek can take up to a week, and it will take one or two days to get back to Florida, according to Kari Fluegel of the United Space Alliance. The trip can be tricky since the craft perched atop a 747 can be flown only during the day and never in the rain.

"You don't want to damage the tiles. Rain can damage the tiles," Fluegel told Florida television station WESH.



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Shuttle

Continued from page 1A

The journey will cost upwards of \$1 million.

“It’s a very heavy aircraft,” Fluegel said. “You don’t want to get into any high winds or anything that might make controlling that piggybacked aircraft any more difficult.”

NASA plans to refuel the shuttle-carrying 747 in Abilene, but Altus Air Force Base would be an alternate refueling location if weather is bad over Texas. According to Master Sgt. Eugene Bird of the

AAFB Public Affairs office, the base will prepare for the possibility.

“The Air Force base has established plans for this sort of contingency. It is still not determined whether the shuttle will fly here or not,” Bird said.

If the past is any indicator, there is about a 10 percent chance Altus Air Force Base will get a shuttle visit. Of some 50 piggyback rides between 1984 and 2002, six have stopped in Altus for refueling.

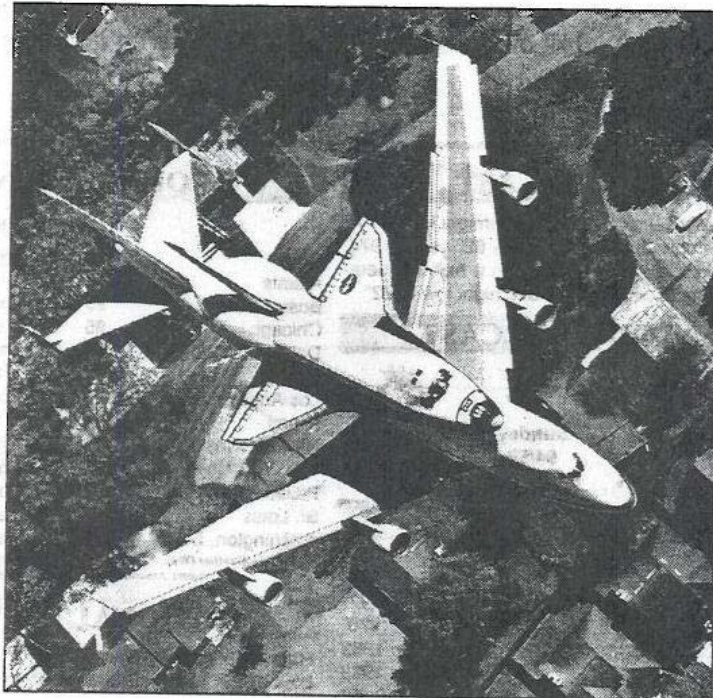


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A space shuttle flies perched on a 747 over a Tallahassee, Fla., neighborhood heading for Cape Canaveral, Fla., in 2001. If weather hampers refueling plans in Texas, the shuttle could make a return visit to Altus.

AP photo

Altus Times

PAGE: 1

DATE: 11 Aug 05



AETC News Clips

Columbus AFB, Miss.



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11 Aug 05



2nd Lt. Lea Lato/U.S. Air Force Photo

Pilot for a Day — Columbus Lear Siegler Service Inc. instructor Dave Woods helps “Pilot for a Day” Calvin Al-Ashkar, 5, fly in a T-37 “Tweet” simulator at Columbus Air Force Base July 29. Calvin, who is from Birmingham, Ala., suffers from rhabdomyosarcoma, a form of cancer that affects muscle and soft tissue. He and his family learned about the base’s mission, visited static aircraft displays and toured the fire department. Calvin and his family learned of the CAFB “Pilot for a Day” program while attending “Dreams on Wings” in Birmingham. Volunteer pilots with the program offer seriously ill children flights during the event. CAFB representatives took part in “Dreams on Wings” to create interaction between “Pilot For A Day” and similar area programs. The newest addition to the CAFB Pilot For A Day program is the Wall of Fame, located in the 14th Operations Group building. Calvin will be the first child to watch as his hero shot is added to the display.

The Sun Herald

PAGE:

ISSUE DATE: 11 Aug 05



AETC News Clips

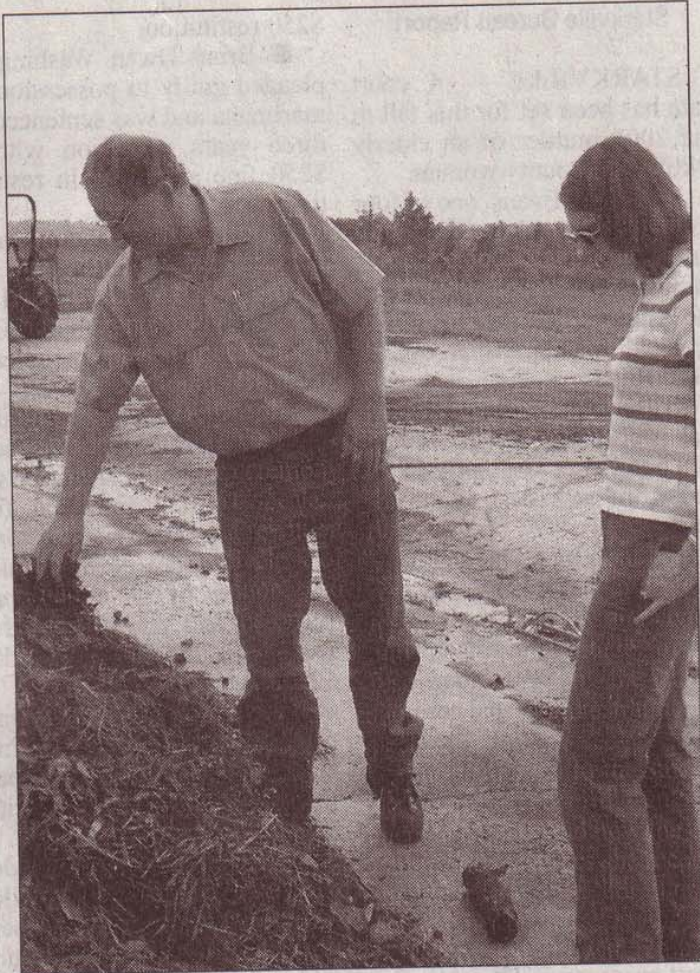
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11 Aug 05

Checking on the environment



Airman Alyssa Wallace/U.S. Air Force

Kevin Porteck, an Air Force forester, and Sarah Fafinski, a member of the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight unit at Columbus Air Force Base, inspect the compost piles during the recent External Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program. The ESOHCAMP, which began Monday, assessed air emissions, cultural resources, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, natural resources, other environmental issues, pesticide management, POL, solid waste, storage tanks, toxic substances, wastewater, water quality, safety, occupational health, and environmental restoration at CAFB.

The Sun Herald

PAGE:

ISSUE DATE: 11 Aug 05



AETC News Clips

Luke AFB, Ariz.



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Protester dressed as clown arrested at Luke AFB

The Associated Press

Aug. 8, 2005

SUN CITY- A war protester dressed as a clown was arrested after he refused to move from the entrance area of Luke Air Force Base.

The Rev. John G. Lemnitzer had been protesting the Iraq war near the base's entrance on Saturday.

"Sometimes, you need to do more to make a statement," he said, noting that the terrorism fears shouldn't limit the right to speak out.

He had dressed as a clown, Lemnitzer said, because he meant the demonstration to be a celebration of peacemaking.

Arizona Daily Star

PAGE: Internet

DATE: 11 Aug 05



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Governor makes no promises to cities on highway funding

Pat Flannery

The Arizona Republic

Aug. 6, 2005

Gov. Janet Napolitano held out hope that local cities might see an increased share of state highway user revenues, but she was careful not to make promises during an address to West Valley leaders.

Napolitano was asked this week about the status of the state Highway User Revenue Fund during a question-and-answer session with west-side civic and community leaders in the kickoff of Westmarc's West Valley Forum Series. The event was at the Arizona State University West campus.

Local governments have long relied on the so-called HURF to help build and repair local streets and highways. Vehicle registration fees and license and fuel taxes feed the fund. Since the late 1990s, however, lawmakers navigated through tight budget times in part by holding down municipalities' HURF shares.

"The HURF issue is certainly on my mind," Napolitano said.

With the state's improved financial outlook, she said, she was studying whether "some of those financial bridges we can now cross" to restore previous allocations.

"I'd love them just not to divert that money (to other causes) any longer," Peoria Vice Mayor Pat Dennis said.

Dennis, a member of the Maricopa Association of Governments' Transportation Policy Committee, said \$771 million in HURF money that would have been allocated to the cities under previous formulas has been diverted by the state to other uses since 1998.

As some West Valley officials now explore how to speed up the widening of Interstate 10 and construction of Loop 303, a return to previous HURF allocations could broaden their financial options.

Although it was clear Napolitano would make no promises at the Westmarc event Wednesday, Dennis said, it was nonetheless important for her to be aware of the cities' needs.

County Supervisor Max Wilson, another member of MAG's transportation policy panel, said state shared revenues would be an important factor in any attempt to move up the I-10 expansion and Loop 303 construction.

"There is a way the state can help," he said.

Meetings have been under way recently to discuss the issue and to determine what types of state funding might be available.

The Arizona Republic

PAGE:

DATE: 11 Aug 05



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"We are growing faster than our transportation system can handle," Wilson said.

Napolitano said the West Valley's long-term economic development potential was equally reliant on the success of her state education initiatives and efforts to protect **Luke Air Force Base**. The former will ensure that a well-trained workforce is available far into the future, while the latter will keep a vital west-side economic engine churning.

Encroaching development and federal base realignments both affect **Luke's** future. Although Arizona so far has succeeded in protecting **Luke** from encroachment and from closure by the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission, Napolitano said it must do more to market itself for future military uses.

She said Arizona should try to lure new military operations from other states as U.S. bases are being realigned and military activities consolidated.

The Arizona Republic

PAGE:

DATE: 11 Aug 05